UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1958
16 August 1995

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Security Council exempts Rwandan Government from arms embargo imposed by resolution 918 for one year; maintains prohibition of arms sales to non-governmental forces for use in Rwanda.

* Evacuation of minorities from Serb-controlled territory in Bosnia continues; Croatian Government and Croatian Serbs build up forces in Sector East.

* Secretary-General condemns attempt by Armed Forces in Sao Tome and Principe to overthrow democratically-elected Government.

* Liberian faction leaders hold talks on national reconciliation in Abuja.

* Assembly of International Seabed Authority sets up working group to review draft headquarters agreement.

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The Security Council today decided to exempt the Rwandan Government from the arms embargo imposed by resolution 918 (1994) until 1 September 1996. It permitted the sale or supply of arms and related materiel to the Government through named points of entry on a list to be supplied by Kigali to the Secretary-General. The Council said the restrictions on the Government would terminate on 1 September 1996, unless the Secretary-General recommended otherwise. It took that action, under Chapter VII of the Charter, by unanimously adopting resolution 1011 (1995).

Meanwhile, the Council required all States to continue to prevent the sale or supply of arms to Rwanda -- other than to the Government -- or to persons in neighbouring States, if those arms were to be used within Rwanda. It said that no arms sold or supplied to the Government could be resold to, transferred to, or made available for use by, any State neighbouring Rwanda, or any person not in the service of the Rwandan Government, either directly or indirectly.

The Council decided that States should notify the Committee established by resolution 918 (1994) of all exports of arms and related materiel to the Rwandan Government. The Government should mark and register and notify the Committee of

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all such imports, and the Committee should regularly report on notifications so received.

The Council requested the Secretary-General to make recommendations as soon as possible on the establishment of a Commission to investigate alleged arms flows to former Rwandan government forces in the Great Lakes region. It called on the Governments of Rwanda and neighbouring States to cooperate with the Commission's investigations. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to report within one month on his efforts for the convening of a regional conference on security, stability and development, as well as for the convening of a regional meeting on problems facing the repatriation of refugees.

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The evacuation of minorities from Bosnia's Banja Luka region continued today, according to a United Nations spokesman. Some 900 people were transported into Croatia on Monday, followed by 1,700 yesterday. Up to 1,700 people were expected to cross the border today. Most of the evacuees were Croats, although there were reports that Muslims were signing up with the Serb authorities for evacuation under considerable pressure and intimidation. Only 40,000 members of minority groups remain in the Banja Luka region, down from a pre-war total of 500,000. The Serb population is estimated at over 700,000.

Meanwhile, some 35,000 refugees from the northern Bihac pocket remained stranded in Croatia, the spokesman continued. The refugees are supporters of rebel Muslim leader Fikret Abdic who fled to Croatia after the Bosnian Government took control of the pocket. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) today held talks with the Croatian Government amid reports the Government was moving to evacuate the refugees.

The spokesman noted a build-up of forces by the Croatian Government and the Croatian Serbs in and around the zone of separation in Sector East. He described the situation there as tense, but said a major military conflict was not expected. In another development, the Croatian Government was reported to be moving troops and equipment into the Dubrovnik area. The United Nations was concerned that the Government would launch an offensive to halt cross-border shelling by Serb forces in southern Bosnia.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today expressed shock on learning that the Armed Forces in Sao Tome and Principe had arrested President Trovoada, Prime Minister Graca and members of the Cabinet in an attempt to overthrow the country's first democratically-elected Government. Stressing that force could not be accepted as a means of resolving internal problems in a Member State, he appealed to the Armed Forces to uphold the Constitution and allow the President and his Government to immediately resume their democratic mandate.

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Liberian faction leaders met today in Abuja, Nigeria, for talks on national reconciliation. In June, the Security Council warned that it would not extend the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) beyond 15 September without serious and substantial progress in the peace process. Resolution 1001 (1995) specifically urged the Liberian parties to install the Council of State; reestablish a comprehensive and effective cease-fire, disengage all forces; and create an agreed timetable and schedule for the implementation of all other aspects of the Agreements.

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The Assembly of the International Seabed Authority has set up an ad hoc working group to review a draft headquarters agreement covering the rights and obligations of the Authority and the Jamaican Government. Jamaica is the seat of the Authority.

As it continued the final part of its first session in Kingston, the Assembly decided that the working group would also examine the final draft protocol on the privileges and immunities of the Authority and its staff. The two drafts will be the basis for negotiations between the Authority and Jamaica.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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17 August 1995

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* UNDP's Human Development Report 1995 shows women experience economic and social inequalities worldwide; estimates women contribute $11 trillion to global economy in unpaid and undervalued work.

* Croatian Government prevents UNHCR relief convoys from reaching 30,000 refugees from Bosnia's Bihac pocket; UNCRO reports extensive looting by Croatian forces in Sector South.

* Secretary-General to pay official visit to Portugal next week in connection with fiftieth anniversary of United Nations.

* Decolonization Committee adopts decision on military bases in Non-Self-Governing Territories; Russian Federation calls Committee's stance outmoded and archaic.

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The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) today launched its Human Development Report 1995. Published annually since 1990, the Report examines the progress made by people worldwide and provides country-by-country comparisons on a broad range of social and economic indicators. This year, it focuses on gender inequalities and includes two new composite indices -- the gender-related development index (GDI) and the gender empowerment measure (GEM).

Gender gaps in basic human capabilities have been halved in recent decades, but women still lack access to economic and political opportunities, according to the Report. Women work longer hours than men in almost every country, but most of their work is unpaid, unrecognized and undervalued. It is estimated that such work contributes $11 trillion to the global economy. The undervaluation of work not only undermines women's purchasing power, but reduces their social status and their right to own property and receive credit from financial institutions. As a result, most of the world's poor are women.

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For information media—not an official record

The Report presents a five-point strategy to close the economic and social gaps between men and women. It recommends: implementation of a timetable to eliminate legal discrimination against women; changes in social and institutional norms to extend more choices to women and men in the workplace; a threshold of 30 per cent for female representation in parliaments; expanding programmes for education and reproductive health; and targeting national and international efforts to provide greater access to political and economic opportunities.

* * *

The Croatian Government has been preventing United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) relief convoys from reaching up to 30,000 Bosnian refugees from the Bihac pocket. The refugees are supporters of rebel Muslim leader Fikret Abdic who fled to Croatia after the Bosnian Government took control of the pocket. They are living out of doors or in vehicles and their situation is deteriorating daily. It is thought that the Croatian Government wants to pressure the refugees to return to Bosnia, but many of them fought against the Bosnian Army and fear reprisals if they do so.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO) has been enjoying greater freedom of movement in Sector North. Peace-keepers have visited Serbs who stayed put after the Croatian Government's recent military action there. The Serbs were afraid, but were otherwise living in satisfactory conditions. In Sector South, UNCRO observed extensive looting and destruction of property by Croatian military and police authorities. The build-up of forces around Dubrovnik continued today and some artillery fire was heard across the border in Bosnia.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali will pay an official visit to Portugal next week, according to a United Nations spokesman. The Secretary-General is undertaking the visit in connection with the fiftieth anniversary of the Organization, and an observance in the Portuguese Parliament.

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Military bases and installations which are impeding implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples should be withdrawn, according to a decision adopted by the Special Committee on decolonization. It called on the administering Powers to continue to take all necessary measures not to involve Non-Self-Governing Territories in any offensive acts against, or interference in, other States. Adopted by 11 votes in favour to one against (Russian Federation), the decision was one of three proposals adopted by the Committee as it concluded its 1995 session.

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The Russian representative said the decision had no connection with current circumstances and cast doubt on the desire of the Special Committee to work for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories. If actions continued to be based on an outmoded, archaic and confrontational stance, the Russian Federation would be forced to review the level of its participation in the Committee's work.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1960
18 August 1995

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Security Council calls on Georgian and Abkhaz parties to make substantial progress towards political settlement; says Abkhaz obstruction of return of refugees is totally unacceptable.

* Security Council expresses concern over reports of possible attack into southern Bosnia; calls on parties to exercise restraint.

* Secretary-General says he is firmly committed to deterring attacks on safe area of Gorazde; cites deployment of military observers and threat of NATO air strikes.

* Secretary-General congratulates Tajik Government and Opposition on signing Protocol on principles for peace and extending cease-fire agreement for six months.

* Security Council to meet tomorrow to address problems with Bosnian and Croatian Governments regarding deployment of Rapid Reaction Force.

* Special Representative for Angola expresses concern about continuing violations of cease-fire, including laying of land-mines.

* Ad Hoc Committee on International Criminal Court discusses definitions of genocide, aggression, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

* Assembly of International Seabed Authority decides Kingston Office will continue as interim secretariat; bars Federal Republic of Yugoslavia from its first session.

* FAO to open Subregional Office for Southern and East Africa in Harare.

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For information media—not an official record

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The Security Council today renewed its call to the Georgian and Abkhaz parties -- particularly to the Abkhaz side -- to reach substantial progress in their political negotiations. In a statement by its President, Nugroho Wisnumurti (Indonesia), the Council noted that there had been little overall progress towards a comprehensive settlement and that a stalemate existed with respect to the return of refugees and displaced persons.

The Council expressed deep concern at the continued obstruction of the return of the refugees and displaced persons by the Abkhaz authorities, which was totally unacceptable. Reaffirming resolution 993 (1995), it once more called on the Abkhaz authorities to accelerate the return process significantly, to guarantee the safety of all returnees and to regularize the status of spontaneous returnees.

The Council expressed full support for the efforts of the Secretary-General, and of the Russian Federation in its capacity as facilitator, aimed at achieving a comprehensive political settlement of the conflict. It noted with appreciation the Secretary-General's appointment of a resident Deputy to his Special Envoy. It also supported his efforts regarding the establishment of a human rights monitoring mission in the area, and encouraged him to continue consultations with the parties to that end.

* * *

The President of the Security Council today expressed concern over reports of a possible attack into southern Bosnia and Herzegovina. In a statement to correspondents at Headquarters, Mr. Wisnumurti called on all parties to exercise the utmost restraint.

In another development, the Council President met today with the Permanent Representative of Croatia, Mario Nobilo, regarding alleged artillery attacks by Croatian forces against the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) on 12 August. According to the President, Mr. Nobilo said that Croatia had no intention of provoking the Federal Republic, and that the alleged attacks should be seen in the context of Bosnian Serb shelling of Dubrovnik.

Mr. Noblio stressed that if shells had fallen on the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), it was a totally unintentional occurrence. He underlined the need for an end to the shelling of Dubrovnik, stressing the historic city's importance to the Croatian economy.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today voiced concern at reports suggesting that the United Nations was abandoning the safe area of Gorazde, from which the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) infantry presence was about to be withdrawn. He stressed that the Organization remained fully committed to its mandate to deter attacks on Gorazde and other safe areas. That deterrence was achieved through a combination of the military presence on the ground and the threat of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) air strikes.

The British Government had announced that it would withdraw its troops from Gorazde at the end of August, the Secretary-General continued. As attempts to replace them had been unsuccessful, the United Nations had no choice but to deploy military observers in Gorazde, backed up by NATO air power. The Force Commander had thus been instructed to draw up plans for a revised military deployment to serve as the eyes and ears of the international community, working in close cooperation with NATO. A continuing United Nations presence in Gorazde was therefore assured. The Secretary-General reiterated his commitment to deterring attacks on the safe area and on the 60,000 civilians who lived there.

* * *

The Secretary-General today expressed great pleasure on learning that President Rakhmonov of Tajikistan and the leader of the Tajik Opposition, Abdullo Nuri, had signed a Protocol on the main principles establishing peace in Tajikistan. They also agreed to extend the current cease-fire for six months from 26 August.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali congratulated the parties on their achievement, which showed their will to address fundamental political and institutional issues at the next round of inter-Tajik talks, set to begin on 18 September. He thanked the observer countries, particularly Afghanistan, Iran and Russia, for their support, and expressed his appreciation for the efforts of Special Envoy Ramiro Piriz-Ballon.

* * *

The Security Council will meet tomorrow to address problems being experienced with the Bosnian and Croatian Governments regarding the deployment of the Rapid Reaction Force. The Secretary-General today wrote to the Council bringing the matter to its attention, according to a United Nations spokesman. He said that some major elements of the Force had been prevented from deploying, and that they were thus unable to carry out the task of assisting the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR).

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The Secretary-General reiterated the Organization's position that the Rapid Reaction Force was covered by the existing status of force agreements with Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia. He did not accept the position that those agreements had to be amended, or new ones negotiated, for the Force. He asked the Council to take up the matter in order to avoid any further delays in the deployment.

* * *

While violations of the Angolan cease-fire have been decreasing in number, they have been increasing in severity, Special Representative Alioune Blondin Beye said yesterday. He expressed concern at the continuation of fighting in Angola and at the fact that new-land mines were being laid in total violation of the peace accords.

Mr. Beye indicated that both the Angolan Government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) had committed violations of the accords. He urged the parties to give the matter serious attention.

* * *

The Ad Hoc Committee on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court has been considering approaches to the legal definition of genocide, aggression, crimes against humanity and war crimes. Speakers yesterday generally agreed that the definition of genocide in the Genocide Convention of 1948 should not be widened in the draft statute for an international criminal court. Several said that systematic attacks on social and political groups could be covered under crimes against humanity, precluding the need to expand the definition of genocide.

Speakers differed as to whether the code of crimes for the proposed court should include acts of aggression. The representative of Germany stated that heads of State or government must be held individually responsible for acts of aggression. Otherwise, a political leader could carry out an act of aggression without committing acts of genocide, war crimes or crimes against humanity, and avoid prosecution after the fact.

* * *

The Assembly of the International Seabed Authority has decided that the Kingston Office for the Law of the Sea will continue as the Authority's interim secretariat. In another action taken without a vote, the Assembly decided that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) should not participate in the work of its first session. It also decided to hold intersessional consultations in New York from 6 to 8 December on the composition of the Authority's Council.

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The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has signed an agreement with the Government of Zimbabwe to open an FAO Subregional Office for Southern and East Africa in Harare. The new Office will direct FAO activities from the Horn of Africa to South Africa, a region in which some 19 million people face food shortages as a result of drought and civil conflict.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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21 August 1995

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Security Council calls on Bosnian and Croatian Governments to remove all restrictions on Rapid Reaction Force.

* Three United States officials killed in road accident outside Sarajevo; Secretary-General says quest for peace will continue unabated despite tragedy.

* Liberian faction leaders conclude Agreement on cease-fire and establishment of Council of State.

* Secretary-General condemns terrorist bus bombing in Jerusalem; expresses hope parties will remain committed to implementing Declaration of Principles.

* Secretary-General leaves New York for four-day visit to Portugal in connection with fiftieth anniversary of United Nations.

* As Zaire begins expelling Rwandan refugees, UNHCR says any repatriation must be truly voluntary.

* Security Council Committee invites Hungary to suspend deliveries of natural gas across border with Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

* * *

The Security Council has called on the Bosnian and Croatian Governments to remove all impediments to the freedom of movement and provision of facilities for the Rapid Reaction Force (RRF). The RRF was established on 16 June to reinforce the United Nations Peace Forces (UNPF)/United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR).

In a statement by its President, Nugroho Wisnumurti (Indonesia), on Saturday, the Council called on the two Governments to resolve any outstanding difficulties with United Nations authorities, within the framework of the existing Status of Forces Agreements. It agreed with the Secretary-General's view that the existing Agreements were sufficient basis for the presence of an expanded UNPF/UNPROFOR, including the RRF.

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Despite the Council's statement, the Rapid Reaction Force continued to experience difficulties over the weekend, according to a United Nations spokesman. He noted that a French artillery unit had been blocked at a Bosnian Croat check-point for six hours.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed deep sorrow at the deaths of three United States officials in an accident outside Sarajevo on Saturday. The Secretary-General extended his condolences to the Government of the United States and the families of the three men. He expressed confidence that the quest for peace in the former Yugoslavia would continue unabated in spite of the tragedy.

The three officials -- Special Envoy Robert Frasure, Deputy Defense Secretary Joseph Kruzel and National Security Council aide Colonel Samuel Nelson Drew -- were killed when the armoured personnel carrier in which they were travelling plunged off the Mount Igman road and caught fire. A French peace-keeper was also killed in the accident.

* * *

Liberian faction leaders meeting in Abuja, Nigeria, yesterday concluded an Agreement calling for a cease-fire to begin at midnight on 26 August and for the establishment of a Council of State on 2 September. The Agreement was negotiated under the auspices of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

The Secretary-General welcomed the Agreement as an important step on the road to peace in Liberia, and called on all the Liberian parties to fully implement it. Such action would send the strongest possible to the Liberian people and the international community that the parties were ready for peace.

* * *

Mr. Boutros-Ghali strongly condemned the terrorist attack against two buses in Jerusalem today, and extended condolences to the families of the victims. He expressed the hope that, despite the outrageous incident, the parties would remain undeterred in their negotiations to implement in full the Declaration of Principles of September 1993.

* * *

The Secretary-General will leave New York later today for a four-day official visit to Portugal, in connection with that country's commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. He will have meetings with the Portuguese President, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, as well as with the Mayor of Lisbon.

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On Thursday, the Secretary-General will open the sixty-seventh session of the Institute of International Law at the Classic University of Lisbon. The following day, he will attend a special Parliamentary celebration of the Organization's fiftieth anniversary. He will return to Headquarters next Monday.

* * *

Zaire has begun expelling Rwandan refugees from its territory, transporting them by bus to the border with Rwanda, according to a United Nations spokesman. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) tried to stop the repatriation until it could ascertain that it was voluntary and that the Government of Rwanda was prepared to accept the refugees.

The UNHCR established that the Rwandan Government was processing and registering the refugees, and that it would allow the agency access to them. The High Commissioner reiterated that it supported a truly voluntary repatriation of the refugees.

* * *

The Security Council Committee established by resolution 724 (1991) has invited the Government of Hungary to suspend natural gas supplies at the Hungarian-Yugoslav border until agreements on the unhindered supply of gas to all users are reached and adequate guarantees provided. The Committee took that action after being informed by the Bosnian Government of disruptions and, since May, a total halting by Bosnian Serbs of gas supplies to Sarajevo from the Russian Federation through Hungary and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

The Committee also approved two requests by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) regarding the flow of refugees from Croatia to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and Serb-controlled areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It authorized the transportation of humanitarian supplies by air from Belgrade, if necessary, to refugees on the move. It also authorized a shipment of fuel to Belgrade for increased UNHCR activities in the region.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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DH/1962
22 August 1995

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Ten thousand refugees from Rwanda and Burundi expelled by Zaire; Secretary-General asks UNHCR to travel to Zaire to seek understanding with Government.

* Bosnian Serbs target United Nations observation post outside Sarajevo wounding six Egyptian peace-keepers.

* Alvaro de Soto returns from mission to Myanmar; Secretary-General to submit report to General Assembly.

* Government of Guatemala and URNG make progress in negotiations on agrarian situation.

* New Zealand requests World Court to declare proposed French nuclear tests in South Pacific violation of international law.

* Assembly of International Seabed Authority concludes first session in Kingston without agreement on composition of Council of Authority.

* As of 15 August, Member States owe United Nations $2.59 billion; $858 million owed to regular budget and $1.73 billion to peace-keeping operations.

* Two libraries in Lebanon designated United Nations depository libraries.

* * *

Ten thousand refugees from Rwanda and Burundi have been expelled by Zaire since Saturday, including more than 5,000 today, according to a United Nations spokesman. He said the expulsions threatened to destabilize the entire region. Meanwhile, there were reports that more than 60,000 refugees have fled into the hills of Zaire to avoid forced repatriation.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has asked United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Sadako Ogata to travel to Zaire urgently to seek an understanding with the Government to calm the crisis. He has also had

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For information media—not an official record

an exchange of letters with the Zairean Prime Minister. The UNHCR has appealed to the Government of Zaire to continue to provide asylum while working with the international community to promote the orderly return of the refugees.

* * *

Bosnian Serb forces today directly targeted an observation post manned by Egyptian peace-keepers north-east of Sarajevo, according to a United Nations spokesman. Six Egyptians were injured in the attack, two of them seriously. There was also heavy shelling in the Sarajevo area as a result of Bosnian Government forces targeting a Serb arms factory just north of the city. Retaliatory shelling by the Bosnian Serb army followed.

Yesterday, Special Representative Yasushi Akashi briefed the Secretary-General on the situations in Bosnia and Croatia. Mr. Akashi returned to his post in Zagreb today.

The Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Thorvald Stoltenberg and Carl Bildt, travelled to Washington today to attend memorial services for the three United States envoys who were killed in Sarajevo in an accident on Saturday.

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Assistant Secretary-General Alvaro de Soto has returned from his mission to Myanmar on behalf of the Secretary-General. During his visit, he held several meetings with the Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw and paid a courtesy call on General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council.

Mr. de Soto also conferred on two occasions with Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi and leaders of the National League for Democracy. He also met with U Aung Shwe, leader of the National League for Democracy delegation in the National Convention, which is drawing up the guidelines for a new constitution.

The Secretary-General will submit a report to the General Assembly on Myanmar in accordance with resolution 49/197.

* * *

The Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalateca (UNRG) have concluded four days of negotiations on "socio-economic aspects and the agrarian situation". The United Nations moderator for the Guatemalan peace process said the parties had identified points of agreement, rapprochement and disagreement on the "agrarian situation".

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Both parties welcomed the progress that had been made and decided to begin another four-day session on 28 August. With a view to intensifying their negotiations, the parties agreed to schedule two more sessions next month, from 9 to 12 September and from 26 to 29 September.

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New Zealand has requested the International Court of Justice to declare that the resumption of nuclear tests in the South Pacific by France would constitute a violation of the rights of New Zealand and other States by introducing radioactive material into the marine environment. New Zealand also requested the Court to declare that it would be unlawful for France to conduct tests at Mururoa and Fangataufa Atolls before undertaking an environmental impact assessment according to accepted international standards.

In its 21 August application, New Zealand also requested the Court, in the interim, to declare that France should refrain from testing at the two atolls and undertake an environmental impact study. Unless the study established that the tests would not contaminate the marine environment, France should refrain from conducting the tests.

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The Assembly of the International Seabed Authority has concluded its first session in Kingston, Jamaica, without agreement on the composition of the Authority's 36-member Council. The Council is to have an equitable geographical distribution and a balance between developed and developing States.

Assembly President Hasjim Djalal (Indonesia) noted that some groups had agreed on their candidates, while others needed more time to arrive at a consensus. The Assembly therefore decided to hold informal inter-sessional consultations in New York from 6 to 8 December in an attempt to resolve the question of membership of the Council and related issues.

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As of 15 August, Member States owed the United Nations an overall total of $2.59 billion, according to the latest status of contributions report. The figure is down from the $2.61 billion owed the Organization as of 31 July.

Of the current total outstanding amount, $858 million is for the regular budget. Member States owe $1.73 billion for peace-keeping operations.

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Two libraries in Lebanon have been designated United Nations depository libraries, making them part of an international network of 347 libraries in 140 countries that brings United Nations documents and publications to users around the world.

The University of Saint Joseph and Lebanese University, both located in Beirut, are the homes of the depository libraries. The libraries are open to the public free of charge.

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UNITED NATIONS

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23 August 1995

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Security Council calls on Zaire to halt forcible repatriation of Rwandan and Burundian refugees.

* UNHCR condemns Zaire's violent expulsion of refugees.

* Guyana requests international assistance to deal with major spill of gold-mine waste containing cyanide.

* Secretary-General recommends General Assembly renew mandate of MINUGUA until 18 March 1996.

* Secretary-General recommends increased United Nations system cooperation to strengthen capacity-building of democratic institutions.

* Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination calls for the provision to Bosnia and Herzegovina of all means to protect itself in accordance with United Nations Charter.

* * *

The Security Council today called on the Government of Zaire to reconsider and halt its declared policy of the forcible repatriation of refugees to Rwanda. In a statement by its President, Nugroho Wisnumurti (Indonesia), the Council expressed concern at Zaire's forcible repatriation of Rwandan and Burundian refugees and the increasingly tense situation in the region. It called on Zaire to honour its obligations to the refugees, including those under the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951.

The Council said the nations which had accepted refugees from Rwanda and Burundi had made an important contribution to peace and stability in the region, especially in view of the genocide which took place in Rwanda and the

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* **Revised version: Yesterday's Daily Highlights (DH/1963) was an inadvertent reprint of Friday's Highlights.**

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possibility of further bloodshed in Burundi. The Council also noted the commitment of the Rwandan Government to take the necessary steps to make possible the safe return of its nationals as soon as possible.

The Council expressed support for the Secretary-General's decision to send the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, to the region to engage in urgent discussions with the Government of Zaire to resolve the situation. It encouraged all governments in the region to cooperate with the High Commissioner for Refugees to achieve the voluntary and orderly repatriation of refugees.

Mrs. Ogata is expected to begin her mission this weekend, according to a United Nations spokesman.

* * *

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has condemned the violent expulsion of thousands of Rwandan and Burundian refugees from camps in eastern Zaire. Carrol Faubert, the UNHCR's special envoy for the Great Lakes region, has expressed deep concern over reports of looting, beatings and other abuses allegedly committed against the refugees.

The UNHCR has opened two reception centres in Rwanda to receive incoming refugees and another facility at Burundi's border. UNHCR trucks are being made available in Rwanda and Burundi to transport the refugees to the reception centres. Ms. Faubert said the UNHCR stood ready to open a dialogue aimed at resuming a voluntary repatriation programme for all of the region's two million refugees. In Burundi, UNHCR representatives are negotiating with Burundian officials to put up reception centres for the returnees unable to proceed to their villages because of ethnic fighting.

Meanwhile, the expulsion of refugees from Zaire continued today but at a lower rate than yesterday, according to a United Nations spokesman. The number of refugees fleeing camps to the hills of Zaire to avoid forced repatriation has increased, up to an estimated 100,000 people from 60,000 yesterday. The Government of Rwanda is processing people at the border and has arrested or detained a small number of those on suspicion of having participated in war crimes. In addition, more people are reported to be coming to UNHCR for voluntary repatriation.

* * *

Guyana has requested international assistance to deal with a major spill of gold-mine waste, according to a United Nations spokesman. An estimated 1.25 million cubic metres of mining waste containing cyanide has entered two rivers since Saturday.

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The Pan American Health Organization has dispatched an environmental engineer to the region. The joint environment unit of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs is working with the United Nations Development Programme in Guyana to generate contributions to respond to the emergency and also to help coordinate the response.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the General Assembly renew the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA) for another six months until 18 March 1996. In a report to the General Assembly, he also recommended that the Mission be provided additional resources to ensure adequate verification of the human rights aspect of the Agreement on Identity and Rights of Indigenous Peoples of 31 March 1995.

The Secretary-General said MINUGUA continued to fulfil the verification mandate entrusted to it and to assist in strengthening national institutions and entities responsible for the protection of human rights. Furthermore, the Mission's presence was having a positive impact in promoting respect for human rights and the rule of law, as well as increasing confidence in political participation.

Although the target date of signing a final peace agreement in August 1995 could not be met, he said negotiations had regained momentum and the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG) had shown the political will to move forward. Thus, he remained convinced that the United Nations should continue to assist them in reaching the earliest conclusion of an agreement, and the international community should continue to lend its full support to the Guatemalan peace process.

The Secretary-General also said the 31 March 1995 Agreement on Identity and Rights of Indigenous Peoples was a very auspicious development at the beginning of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. He trusted its full implementation would inspire similar efforts elsewhere.

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The Secretary-General has recommended that the United Nations Secretariat and all agencies increase their cooperation in the area of institution-building and democratization, in particular through strengthening capacity-building of democratic institutions. In a report to the General Assembly dated 7 August, he said the aim should be to develop an expanding network for policy development and programme cooperation, involving United Nations agencies, bilateral donors and interested professional organizations. This new framework for coordination should involve both the headquarters level and the regional and field offices.

(more)

The Secretary-General noted that elections were necessary but not sufficient to ensure the durability of a democratization process. As far as electoral assistance was concerned, it had become clear that there was no single formula to ensure a successful election. Electoral assistance must be guided by the wishes of the Member States concerned and the practical realities of each electoral situation, keeping in mind the overall goal of long-term capacity-building.

Experience had shown that an influx of large numbers of observers for election day may be unnecessarily costly and less effective than the deployment of a smaller number of observers who arrive in the country prior to registration and remain for the entire electoral process. In the future, he said, greater emphasis would be placed on long-term observation and the strengthening of national observer networks rather than on the deployment of massive numbers of international observers around election day.

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The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination has urgently called for the provision to Bosnia and Herzegovina of "all means to protect itself in accordance with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter".

In a decision taken in Geneva by a vote of 11 in favour to one against with four abstentions, the Committee called upon the international community and, in particular, all European States, to render assistance to refugees and detained persons directly and through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Committee of the Red Cross and all other organizations involved.

The decision will be transmitted to the Secretary-General, the General Assembly and the Security Council.

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UNITED NATIONS

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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Secretary-General continues official visit to Portugal.

* Zaire suspends expulsion of Rwandan and Burundi refugees.

* Secretary-General recommends further reduction of UNCRO troop strength to 2,500.

* Ukrainian peace-keepers withdraw from Gorazde; British expected to follow shortly.

* Special Rapporteur's report on Human Rights in Former Yugoslavia says Bosnian Serbs committed gross violations in Srebrenica.

* Haitian Provisional Electoral Council announces second round of parliamentary and local elections 17 September.

* Secretary-General says international law must invent new mechanism for peaceful settlement of post-cold-war conflicts.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali is in Lisbon on an official visit to Portugal. Yesterday he met with Jose Luis Jesus, the Ambassador of Cape Verde to Portugal and former Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, to discuss the mission the Ambassador will undertake, once he is formally appointed, as the Secretary-General's Special Envoy to the Great Lakes region. In that capacity, Ambassador Jesus will initiate preparations for a conference on security, stability and development in the region. Ambassador Jesus left Lisbon for New York today to begin his work and, shortly thereafter, he will visit the East African Great Lakes region.

On Wednesday evening, the Secretary-General had a lengthy meeting on Western Sahara with Ambassador Ahmed Snousi of Morocco; Emmanuel Roucounas, the independent jurist appointed pursuant to the settlement plan; and Erik Jensen, the Secretary-General's Acting Special Representative for Western Sahara. The Moroccan Ambassador delivered a message to the Secretary-General from his Prime Minister regarding the identification process and an agreement was reached at the meeting to accelerate the process.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

The Secretary-General then met with Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Durao Barroso for a comprehensive review of international matters, including the situations in the former Yugoslavia, East Timor, Angola, Mozambique, and Sao Tome and Principe. The Secretary-General stressed the importance of the continuing series of meetings between Indonesia and Portugal, the next round of which would be in London in January. While noting that their positions remained far apart, he expressed his optimism that a solution would eventually be found, based on his feeling that the political will existed to work towards that end.

Following his meeting at the Foreign Ministry, the Secretary-General had lunch with Foreign Minister Durao Barroso and Diogo Freitas do Amaral, a professor at the Catholic University of Lisbon and a former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs as well as a presidential candidate, who is expected to be elected President of the General Assembly in September.

The Secretary-General was also meeting with Prime Minister Anibal Avaco Silva. He was then to receive the Secretary of State at the Council of Ministers of Angola, Carlos Feijo, who would bring him a message from Angolan President Eduardo dos Santos.

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The tide may have turned in the Rwandan refugee crisis, according to a United Nations spokesman. Zaire informed the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) today that it was suspending its expulsion policy and would welcome a visit by the High Commissioner, Sadako Ogata, to try to find a way to resume a truly voluntary repatriation programme with the cooperation of all the parties. Mrs. Ogata is expected to undertake her mission to the region this weekend.

Today's decision by Zaire follows its forcible expulsion of over 15,000 people to Rwanda and the outflow of 173,000 refugees, many from Burundi, out of refugee camps in Zaire to avoid forced repatriation.

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The Secretary-General has recommended that the troop strength of the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO) be further reduced between now and mid-November to about 2,500. The force currently stands at less than 8,750 soldiers, which is the authorized ceiling.

In a report to the Security Council, dated 23 August, he said Croatia's reintegration by force of the former Sectors West, South and North had eliminated the need for infantry battalions in these areas. He recommended that all remaining battalions, except the two in Sector East, be withdrawn starting immediately. Further reductions thereafter might be appropriate depending on the evolution of UNCRO's mandate and the results of current peace

initiatives.

Unless there was a concerted effort by both sides to support the implementation of the UNCRO mandate, abide by the 29 March 1994 cease-fire agreement, and negotiate a lasting settlement, he said the continued usefulness of battalions in Sector East was in doubt. UNCRO's immediate task in the Sector was to try and re-establish the regime created by the cease-fire agreement. If that could be achieved, the Secretary-General said he was inclined to think there could be a continuing role for United Nations forces in the Sector. However, he would only recommend a continuing presence if the parties demonstrated a new spirit of cooperation. This would require giving UNCRO unrestricted freedom of movement, returning all seized observation posts and putting a complete stop to the hijacking of United Nations vehicles.

The Secretary-General said he had instructed Special Representative Yasushi Akashi to pursue consultations urgently with the Croatian Government and the local Serb leadership to define in detail a possible mandate for UNCRO that he could recommend to the Security Council. He also instructed Mr. Akashi to discuss with the Croatian Government what tasks, if any, UNCRO could perform elsewhere in Croatia. Such tasks could include monitoring and good offices in relation to the Prevlaka peninsula and Dubrovnik; monitoring of Croatia's international border with Bosnia and Herzegovina; and monitoring of the Croatian police and other matters relating to human rights in those parts of Croatia in which a minority Serb community remained.

* * *

The withdrawal of United Nations peace-keepers from the United Nations safe area of Gorazde was partially completed today, according to a United Nations spokesman. Seventy-two Ukrainians left the enclave yesterday and are due in Belgrade today. The Ukrainians' position was considered untenable after they were forcibly disarmed by Bosnian Government soldiers last month. The 180 British peace-keepers stationed in Gorazde are due to withdraw shortly.

The Secretary-General has stressed that the enclave is not being abandoned. United Nations military observers will remain, backed up by a threat of NATO airpower to defend Gorazde, the one remaining United Nations safe area in eastern Bosnia, and its 60,000 residents.

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The former Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in the Former Yugoslavia, who resigned last month, says "gross violations of human rights" were committed by Bosnian Serbs against the mainly Muslim population of Srebrenica. In his final report to the Economic and Social Council dated 22 August, Tadeusz Mazowiecki says evidence so far obtained leads to the chilling conclusion that mass executions may have occurred.

(more)

The report says further conclusions on the total number executed and the fate of those unaccounted for would be impossible to draw without access to the territory under control of the Bosnian Serbs, the examination of the sites, and the exhumation and examination of corpses which may be found. The fact that thousands of people, mainly men of draft age, were still missing from Srebrenica was a matter of great concern.

Mr. Mazowiecki said it was vital that investigations continue and the Bosnian Serbs grant immediate access to the area. He called on all military intelligence sources to turn over relevant information to competent United Nations bodies and in particular the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. Bosnian Serb authorities should immediately account for the thousands reportedly still missing and grant the International Committee of the Red Cross access to detention facilities. The former Special Rapporteur said the international community should provide immediate assistance and financial support to the displaced to rebuild their lives, with particular emphasis placed on the building of permanent settlements.

He said the fall of Srebrenica and Zepa brought tragedy, loss of life and serious human rights violations to the inhabitants of those areas. At the same time, it seriously undermined the credibility of the Security Council, the Secretary-General and the whole United Nations system.

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Haiti's Provisional Electoral Council has announced that the second round of parliamentary and local elections will be held on 17 September. According to a United Nations spokesman, only a few Senators and Deputies were elected in the first round with more than 50 percent of the vote. The second round is designed to determine the winner in those contests where neither candidate won a majority the first time around.

The elections will produce members of two-thirds of the Senate and all representatives of the Chamber of Deputies.

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The Secretary-General says new principles of international law are needed in today's unruly post-cold-war world to enable the conduct of States to be rationalized, controlled and regulated. In a speech delivered today to the Institute of International Law in Lisbon, which was presided over and addressed by Portuguese President Mario Soares, the Secretary-General proposed the convening of a major world conference during this fiftieth anniversary year to re-examine all legal mechanisms for the peaceful settlement of disputes between States.

The Secretary-General said there seemed to be a need to re-establish the international legal order on firmer foundations, to extend law-making action

on behalf of disarmament and to rethink the machinery for settling disputes. He attached high importance to the conclusion of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty in 1996 and reiterated support for a convention to ban anti-personnel land-mines. Such a convention could be modelled after the chemical weapons Convention, signed in Paris in January 1993.

It was time to rethink the whole issue of how the United Nations could ensure the settlement of civil wars, he said, and for the legal community and States as a whole to establish procedures for the peaceful settlement of these new types of conflict. "International law must draw conclusions from the new disorder and the rule of law must invent new procedures so that it can better serve peace and international security," he concluded.

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